



The Old Ironsides Report

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Iraqi Barbershop for U.S. Soldiers

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BAGHDAD, Iraq -- It's all about presentation. That's why you're sitting in a cramped room with large mirrors on the wall and clumps of your hair on the floor. You asked for a trim, wanting to keep with the latest trends, yet here you sit with a "high-and-tight." That's OK. You're in Baghdad after all, and there's no one here to impress anyway.

The Iraqi barber is almost done.

He makes a few fastidious clips, taps his comb, and brushes you off. Then he pulls out a spool of thread. You raise your eyebrows. You're not interested in anything that involves a thread. What can a man in a barbershop possibly do with a thread?

The barber knows what you're thinking; and he doesn't care.

He takes a length, twists it, weaves it between thumb and forefinger, and suddenly the barber is upon you.

You tell yourself not to scream. You're a soldier, be strong. What will the others think? You bite your lower lip, fighting back the urge to wail like a banshee. After moments of this eye-watering assault, the man turns you toward the mirror. Voila! Your facial hair has been removed -- at least part of your eyebrows. You look smooth as a baby.

For some soldiers in Baghdad, the pluck and cut is the most action they hope to encounter. The barbershop is set up in a small room just inside the Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Center (HACC) in the Civil Military Cooperation Center and is open every day but Friday. They charge only one dollar for their service. Of course, tips are welcome. When soldiers first rolled into Baghdad, they had no way of getting a nice trim, unless they let their buddy hack at them with a buzzer. After civil affairs units established the Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Center, some officials wanted to bring unit barbers from the States to work in Baghdad. However, Maj. Vincent T. Cooper, a civil affairs officer with the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, an Army Reserve unit based in Riverdale, Md., had a better plan.



Cpl. Juan Castillo, a psychological operations specialist with the 315th Psychological Operations Company, winces as the barber plucks his eyebrows in the HACC barbershop in Baghdad. The shop is in the Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Center.

"I suggested that we find local barbers here and put them to work," said Cooper. "And I think it's worked out great. Short hair is part of being in uniform, and I think these guys do a wonderful job."

Cooper has never endured the twine.

The HACC Barbershop -- named for the location, not the techniques used -- is staffed by professional barbers. Soldiers are pleased with the quality of service there.

"I think they do even better than the barbers back home," said Cpl. Juan Castillo, a psychological operations specialist with the 315th Psychological Operations Company, "And this only costs a dollar. The price is awesome."

The barbershop is a unique place. The Iraqi barbers use a technique that involves a thread and a lot of pain. According to Ahmed Omar, a barber there, this hair-removal technique is widely used in Iraq, and it's just another service offered without additional fees.

"It's really, really painful," Ahmed Omar said and laughed. "But it is very effective."

NEWS

Official: Blackout May Have Begun in Ohio
WASHINGTON (AP) - Problems leading to the worst blackout in U.S. history may have started in Ohio, the state's chief utility regulator said Saturday. Alan Schriber, chairman of the state's Public Utilities Commission, based his comments on investigators' focus on a series of interruptions on five power lines in the Cleveland area during the hour before the blackout. Earlier, Schriber had discounted reports that said Ohio may have been the starting point.

Terror Suspect Said to Target Bush Summit

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - Hambali, alleged mastermind of al-Qaida's campaign of bombings in Southeast Asia, was plotting new terror attacks when he was captured this week, possibly against a Bangkok summit President Bush is due to attend, Thailand's prime minister said Saturday. Hambali, an Indonesian whose real name is Riduan Isamuddin, had planned to make Thailand a base for terror operations, but his arrest - and three of his associates since June - has uprooted his terror network Jemaah Islamiyah from the country, the Thai leader said.

Chaplain's Thought for the Day:

Reputation & Character

Character is the one thing we make in this world and take with us into the next. The circumstances amid which you live determine your reputation; the truth you believe determines your character.

Reputation is what you are supposed to be;
Character is what you are.

Reputation is made in a moment; Character
is built in a lifetime.

Reputation grows like a mushroom;
Character grows like an oak.

Your reputation is learned in an hour; Your
character does not come to light for years.

A single newspaper report gives your
reputation; a life of toil gives you your
character.

Reputation makes you rich or makes you
poor; Character makes you happy or makes
you miserable.

Reputation is what men say about you on
your tombstone; Character is what angels
say about you before the throne of God.

Your character is what God knows you to be.

Your reputation is what men think you are.

William Hershey Davis

SPORTS

Micheel Leads PGA by Two; Tiger Nine Back
ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) -- The last of the major championships is following the script. Little-known Shaun Micheel moved into position to become the fourth first-time major winner this year, birdieing four of his last five holes Friday to take the lead in the PGA Championship.

Twins Crush Royals 14-5 With Torii's Bat

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) -- Torii Hunter drove in three runs for the second straight game and the Minnesota Twins routed the Kansas City Royals again, 14-5 Saturday....

Astros Drop Reds 5-2, Halt 4-Game Skid

CINCINNATI (AP) -- Lance Berkman hit a three-run homer and Wade Miller pitched one-hit ball for six innings as the Houston Astros snapped a four-game skid Saturday with a 5-2 win over the Cincinnati Reds.

Suzuki Hits Grand Slam As Mariners Win

(AP) -- Ichiro Suzuki wasn't going to give the Boston Red Sox a second chance to get him out. Suzuki hit a line drive into the right-field seats for his second grand slam of the season a pitch after third baseman Bill Mueller dropped a foul pop, and the Seattle Mariners beat the Red Sox 8-5 Friday night. "That was a situation where I was under a lot of pressure," Suzuki said through an interpreter. "The pitcher wanted to throw good pitches, so I just focused and tried to put the ball in play."

A Smart Tip From 1AD Safety

WHEN RUNNING ON BIAP OR ANY FOB:

- WEAR REFLECTIVE VEST OR BELT
- HYDRATE
- RECON ROUTE FOR HAZARDS
- DO NOT WEAR HEADPHONES

*** VEHICLES WILL MAINTAIN 10 MILES
PER HOUR WHEN PASSING TROOPS**

ENTERTAINMENT

Elvis Fans Gather for Anniversary Vigil

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) -- Several thousand fans of Elvis Presley capped an annual week of parties, concerts and get-togethers with a vigil at the rock 'n' roll legend's home, lighting candles at Graceland's front gates and walking along a long driveway to the grave. Hundreds of other fans filled four-lane Elvis Presley Boulevard in front of Graceland and waited their turns to join the procession Friday night, ahead of the 26th anniversary of Presley's death. Presley died at 42 on Aug. 16, 1977, and is buried in a small garden beside Graceland. The graveside procession, which grew from a spontaneous fan gathering the year after Presley's death, has been run by his estate since Graceland opened to the public in 1982. The graveside vigil runs into the early morning of the 16th, the anniversary of the day Presley was found unconscious on a bathroom floor. He was pronounced dead, succumbing to drug abuse and heart disease, a short time later. Kenneth Bollermann, 52, of Manasquan, N.J., said he was making his first nighttime visit to the grave, spurred by a dream he had a decade ago. "I was standing at the back of Elvis' grave and could have sworn he came out of his grave and stood right in front of me," said Bollermann, a kitchen worker at a retirement home. "I'm not going to say that will happen. It probably won't."

Oddly Enough:

Convicted Robber, 91, Behind Bars Again

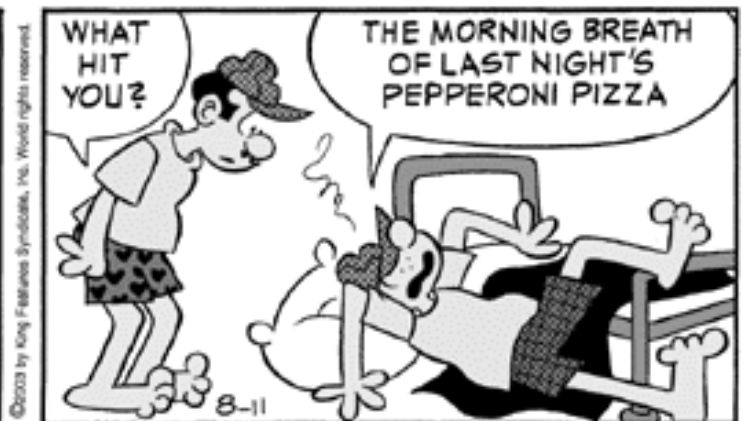
ABILENE, Texas (AP) -- Authorities say convicted bank robber J.L. Hunter "Red" Rountree isn't letting old age stand in his way. The 91-year-old Texas man is back behind bars, accused of robbing his third bank in five years. Police say Rountree walked into a branch of First American Bank in Abilene about 10 a.m. Tuesday, demanded money from a teller and passed over a large envelope with "ROBBERY" written on it. He left in a car parked near the bank, but a witness got the license plate, which police tracked to an address in Goldthwaite, 110 miles southeast of Abilene. About a half-hour later, Rountree was pulled over by officers 16 miles south of Abilene on U.S. 84 on his way home. Rountree was jailed on a charge of bank robbery. Bail was set at \$150,000. Abilene Police Sgt. Mike Perry said about \$2,000 was taken in Tuesday's robbery.

On This Day In History: August 17th 1877

Though only a teenager at the time, Billy the Kid wounds an Arizona blacksmith who dies the next day. He was the famous outlaw's first victim. In 1877, Billy was hired on as a teamster at the Camp Grant Army Post, where he attracted the enmity of a burly civilian blacksmith named Frank "Windy" Cahill. Perhaps because Billy was well liked by others in the camp, Cahill enjoyed demeaning the scrawny youngster. One day Cahill apparently went too far, the big blacksmith jumped Billy and easily threw him to the ground. Pinned to the floor by the stronger man, Billy pulled his pistol and shot Cahill. According to one witness, "[Billy] had no choice; he had to use his equalizer."

source: historychannel.com

Beetle Bailey By Mort Walker

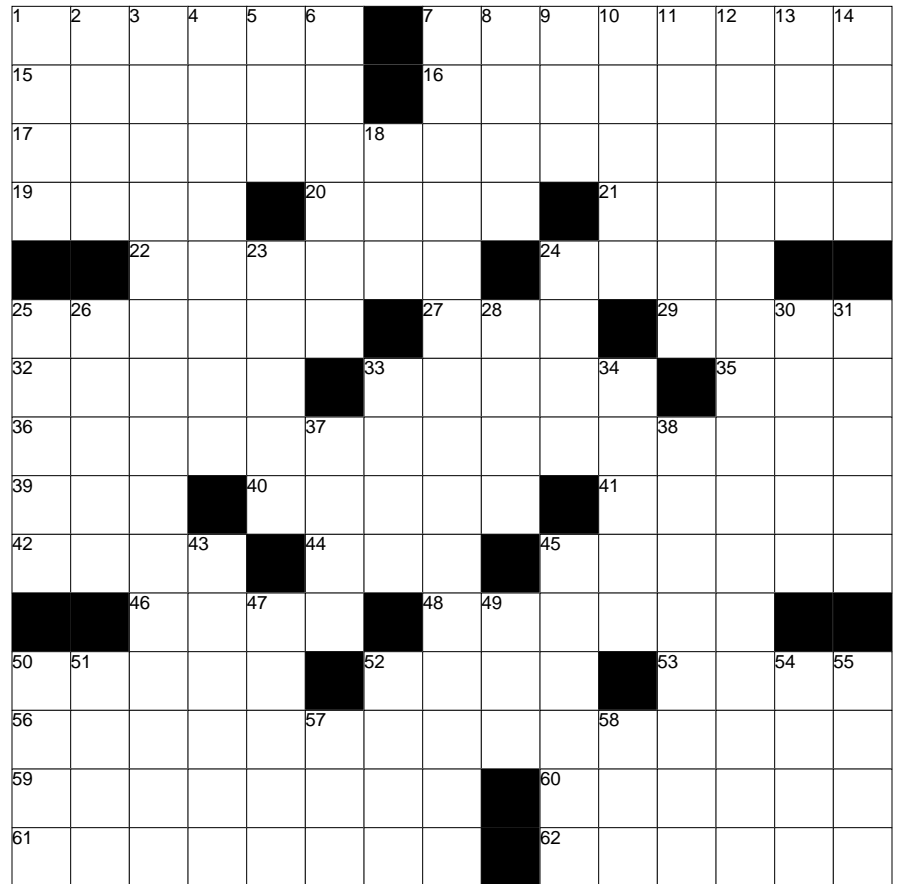


Across

- 1 Place in a different era
- 7 Bill's line
- 15 Gathers cloth
- 16 Frilly green
- 17 Beneficiaries
- 19 Brownish shade
- 20 Santa __, CA
- 21 Four-legged attraction at the '39 World's Fair
- 22 Princess Leia __
- 24 They, in Torino
- 25 Risk pieces
- 27 Dirty
- 29 George's "Stage Door" collaborator
- 32 Lambs
- 33 Range of Utah
- 35 Absorb, in a way
- 36 Appeared
- 39 NHLer, in headlines
- 40 Water purification agent
- 41 Must
- 42 Twelfth month
- 44 Tutu's home: Abbr.
- 45 Airport announcement
- 46 Russia's longest river
- 48 Less precise
- 50 Medieval African kingdom
- 52 __ crab
- 53 Like some rock
- 56 Gone
- 59 "60 Minutes" forerunner
- 60 Lathe expert
- 61 Borax and Epsom salts
- 62 Leave the field

Down

- 1 Reply, shortly
- 2 "Alas!", old-style
- 3 Upset
- 4 Major courses
- 5 "Uno" + "due"
- 6 Apocrypha book
- 7 Lurid details



Puzzle (c) Stanley Newman, distributed by Creators Syndicate, Inc.

Hosting & Software (c) PZZL.com

- 8 Harness racing org.
- 9 Follower of some dates
- 10 Forage plants
- 11 If not
- 12 Brainstorm
- 13 Metric beginning
- 14 __ majesty
- 18 Saturn auto
- 23 Florentine painting surface
- 24 "Alphabet Suite" artist
- 25 First, at first
- 26 Country
- 28 Consort of Louis XIII
- 30 Hawkeye
- 31 Greek peak
- 33 Japanese vegetables
- 34 Penitential sign
- 37 Biblical reformer
- 38 Ancient Greek gym
- 43 Stendhal title part
- 45 Make use of
- 47 Tariff eliminator
- 49 Fictional cave dweller
- 50 "Imagine!"
- 51 Lewis of music
- 52 Casino device
- 54 Liberated, in Lubeck
- 55 Web-footed creature
- 57 Cable channel
- 58 Certain card's function